CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a lawn mower having a frame, a motor connected to the frame, a cutting blade connected to the motor, a deck located above the cutting blade and vertically movably mounted to the frame, a draft rod connected between the deck and a portion of the frame, the improvement comprising:

the draft rod being movably connected between the deck and the portion of the frame to limit upward vertical movement of the deck relative to the frame to a predetermined upper stop location.

2. A lawn mower as in claim 1 wherein the portion of the frame comprises an axle assembly of the lawnmower.

3. A lawn mower as in claim 2 wherein the axle assembly comprises a hole and a portion of the draft rod is movably located in the hole.

4. A lawn mower as in claim 3 wherein the portion of the draft rod is longitudinally slidable in the hole.

5. A lawn mower as in claim 3 wherein the draft rod comprises an enlarged section located between the axle assembly and the deck.

6. A lawn mower as in claim 5 wherein the enlarged section is larger than the hole in the axle assembly.

7. A lawn mower as in claim 5 wherein the enlarged section comprises a bent portion of the draft rod.

8. A lawn mower as in claim 1 wherein the deck comprises a bracket on an exterior side of the deck and

an end of the draft rod is pivotably connected to the bracket.

9. A lawn mower as in claim 8 wherein the bracket comprises a section extending beneath the draft rod which limits downward rotation of the draft rod relative to the deck.

10. A lawn mower comprising:

a frame;

a motor connected to the frame;

a cutting blade connected to the motor;

a deck vertically movably connected to the frame, the deck being located over the cutting blade;

a vertical movement limiting bar connected between the deck and a portion of the frame, the limiting bar being pivotably connected to a mounting section of the deck and longitudinally slidingly connected to the portion of the frame,

wherein the mounting section of the deck has a limiter for limiting downward rotation of the limiting bar.

11. A lawn mower as in claim 10 wherein the portion of the frame comprises an axle assembly of the lawnmower.

12. A lawn mower as in claim 11 wherein the axle assembly comprises a hole and a portion of the limiting bar is movably located in the hole.

13. A lawn mower as in claim 12 wherein the portion of the limiting bar is longitudinally slidable in the hole.

14. A lawn mower as in claim 12 wherein the limiting bar comprises an enlarged section located between the axle assembly and the deck.

15. A lawn mower as in claim 14 wherein the enlarged section is larger than the hole in the axle assembly.

16. A lawn mower as in claim 14 wherein the enlarged section comprises a bent portion of the limiting bar.

17. A lawn mower as in claim 10 wherein the mounting section comprises a bracket on an exterior side of the deck and an end of the limiting bar is pivotably connected to the bracket.

18. A lawn mower as in claim 17 wherein the limiter comprises a tab extending laterally from the bracket, the tab being located beneath a portion of the limiting bar which limits downward rotation of the limiting bar relative to the deck.

19. A lawn mower comprising:

a frame;

a motor connected to the frame;

a cutting blade connected to the motor;

a deck vertically movably connected to the frame, the deck being located over the cutting blade;

a vertical movement limiting bar connected between the deck and a portion of the frame, the limiting bar being pivotably connected to a mounting section of the deck and longitudinally slidingly connected through a hole in the portion of the frame,

wherein the limiting bar comprises a stop surface located between the deck and the portion of the frame for limiting longitudinal movement of the bar through the hole in the portion of the frame.

20. A lawn mower as in claim 19 wherein the limiting bar comprises a bent section which forms the stop surface.